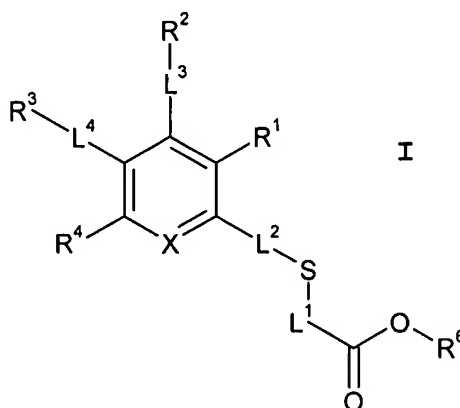


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

X is [[N or]] CH;

R¹ is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or -OR, -NHR, -NR₂ or -SR wherein R is C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂;

R² is H, CF₃; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R³ an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are

single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R³ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R² an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R⁴ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl;

R⁶ is selected from H or optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₅₋₆ aryl and C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ aryl;

L¹ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene or -L⁵N(R⁵)L⁶-, or C₁₋₄ alkylene substituted by either C₁₋₇ alkyl or C₅₋₇ aryl, wherein L⁵ and L⁶ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and C₅₋₆ arylene, and R⁵ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and further wherein L¹ may be unsubstituted C₁₋₄ alkylene when X is N;

~~L² is a single bond; or optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene or -L⁷C(=O)L⁸-, wherein L⁷ and L⁸ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and a single bond; and~~

L³ and L⁴ are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are

independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.

3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein R⁶ is H or C₁₋₇ alkyl.

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L¹ is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH₂-phenylene- and -CH₂C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L³ is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

7. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 6 wherein L³ is a single bond.

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 1 wherein L⁴ is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from

optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 8 wherein L⁴ is selected from the group consisting of –CH₂N(OH)C(=O)–, –phenylene-CH₂N(OH)C(=O)–, –phenylene-NHN(OH)C(=O)– and –CH₂C(=O)N(OH)–.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein one of R¹, R² and R⁴ are H.

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein two of R¹, R² and R⁴ are H.

13. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein R¹, R² and R⁴ are all H.

14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[10]] 1 wherein one of R² and R³ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 14 wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to

claim 14 wherein R³ is optionally substituted phenyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

17. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim 14 wherein R³ is phenyl or cyclopentyl.

18. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ 1 wherein L¹ is phenylene or –CH(Ph)–.

19. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ 1 wherein one of L³ and L⁴ is a single bond.

20. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim 19 wherein L³ is a single bond.

Claim 21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 1 wherein R⁴ is selected from optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl and C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

23. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 1 wherein R¹ is cyano or hydroxamic acid.

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~[[compound]]~~ method according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 1 wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl, CF₃ and, together with R³, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₆ ring fused with the aromatic

ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached.

25. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R² is selected from optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R² is selected from optionally substituted phenyl or thiophenyl.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of thiophenyl, phenyl, *p*-chlorophenyl, *p*-methoxyphenyl, *o*-methoxyphenyl and *p*-fluorophenyl.

28. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim 24 wherein R² is a monosubstituted phenyl group with the substituent group being in the *para* position.

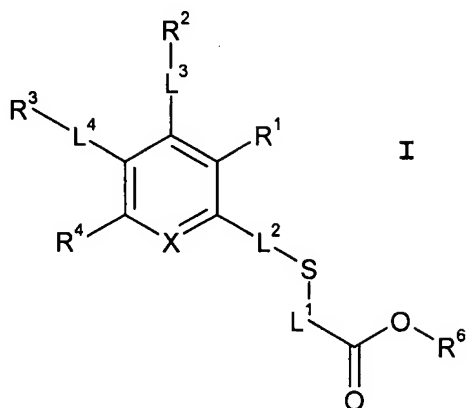
29. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A [[compound]] method according to claim [[21]] 1 wherein R³ is H or, together with R², an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached.

Claim 30. (Canceled)

31. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim [[1]] 34 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is [[N or]] CH;

R¹ is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂; or -OR, -NHR, -NR₂ or -SR wherein R is C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH₂;

R² is H, CF₃; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R³ an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R³ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl or together with R² an optionally substituted C₃₋₄ alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are

single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached;

R⁴ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl or C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl;

R⁶ is selected from H or optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₅₋₆ aryl and C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ aryl;

L¹ is optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene or -L⁵N(R⁵)L⁶-, wherein L⁵ and L⁶ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and C₅₋₆ arylene, and R⁵ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

~~L² is a single bond; or optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene or -L⁷C(=O)L⁸-, wherein L⁷ and L⁸ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene and a single bond; and~~

L³ and L⁴ are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰- and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰-, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆ arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and

wherein the compound contains at least one -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

35. (Original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R¹, L³ or L⁴ comprises a -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

36. (Original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L⁴ comprises a -

C(=O)N(OH)- group.

37. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L⁴ is a L⁹-C(=O)N(OH)- group.

38. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L⁹ is selected from C₁₋₄ alkylene and C₅₋₆ arylene.

39. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L⁹ is methylene or phenylene.

Claim 40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R¹, R² and R⁴ is H.

42. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least two of R¹, R² and R⁴ are H.

43. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein all of R¹, R² and R⁴ are H.

44. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl.

45. (Original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R³ is phenyl.

46. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R⁶ is H or

C₁₋₇ alkyl.

47. (Original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R⁶ is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

48. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L¹ is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH₂-phenylene- or -CH₂C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

Claim 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L³ is a single bond.